



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECHNICAL CENTER 1600/2900

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Applicant: Roy A. BLACK *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/244,984

Filing Date: February 4, 1999

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: M. Moran

Title: CRYSTALLINE TNF- $\alpha$ -CONVERTING ENZYME AND USES THEREOFSUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R §1.114(c)Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231#39/E  
Plunkett  
4/8/03

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed in the above-captioned case on October 2, 2002.

Applicants request reconsideration and reexamination of their application, in light of the following revisions and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 67-74 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the following claims:

E1  
41. (Amended) The method according to claim 66, wherein said associating compound is an inhibitor, mediator, or other compound that regulates TNF- $\alpha$ -converting enzyme activity.

E2  
42. (Amended) The method of claim 66, wherein said associating compound is a competitive inhibitor, un-competitive inhibitor, or non-competitive inhibitor.

E3  
63. (Amended) A method of identifying a compound that associates with tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ -converting enzyme (TACE), comprising (A) using atomic coordinates that comprise the coordinates of Table 1 to design an associating compound that forms a bond with a catalytic domain of a TACE polypeptide, and (B) determining via computer-generated models whether said compound associates with said catalytic domain.